

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 121050Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SS SP MR AG PU

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA VISITS MOROCCO ON MEDIATION
EFFORT

REF: ALGIERS 1172

1. SUMMARY: GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER VISITED MOROCCO MAY 7-11
AND SAW KING HASSAN. MOROCCANS TELL US GUINEAN MISSION INSPIRED
BY BOUMEDIENE IN EFFORT TO SAVE FACE OVER SAHARA. SPECIAL
MOROCCAN EFFORTS WITH GUINEA APPEAR TO HAVE BORNE FRUIT IN
AVERTING GOG RECOGNITION OF SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC
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(SDAR). END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING VISIT TO ALGIERS, GUINEAN PRIMIN BEAVOGUI STOPPED IN RABAT MAY 7-11, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FONMIN, FIFY CISSOKO. BEAVOGUI MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH KING HASSAN MAY 10, AFTER SESSIONS WITH FONMIN LARAKI AND PRIMIN OSMAN MAY 8.

3. ON ARRIVAL, BEAVOGUI SET STAGE FOR FRIENDLY VISIT BY SAYING HE HAD MESSAGE FROM SEKOU TOURE TO KING HASSAN, WHOM HE PRAISED LAVISHLY. HE NOTED SUBSTANCE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WOULD INCLUDE BILATERAL RELATIONS, AFRICAN QUESTIONS, AND INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE HOUR.

4. IN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MAY 10, BEAVOGUI DISPENSED FURTHER HIGH PRAISE FOR MOROCCO, CHARACTERIZING RELATIONS TODAY AS "EXCELLENT." HE INDICATED IN ROUNDABOUT LANGUAGE THAT HIS MISSION CONCERNED SAHARA QUESTION, REMARKING THAT GUINEA WANTED TO BE HELPFUL, WITHOUT INTERFERING IN ANYBODY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IN PRESERVING PEACE AMONG NATIONS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT GUINEAN-MOROCCAN COOPERATION, CITING PRESENCE OF GUINEAN STUDENTS IN MOROCCO, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO INCREASED COMMERCIAL TIES. HE UNDERLINED INTEREST IN CLOSE GUINEAN RELATIONS WITH ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE COMMENTED THAT INASMUCH AS NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT SUCCEEDED, TIME HAD COME TO PASS TO "BRUTAL ACTION, WHICH ALONE IS DECISIVE." "WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THAT PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SHOULD BE SOLVED DEFINITELY BY FORCE OF ARMS," HE CONCLUDED.

5. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH KING HASSAN, BEAVOGUI AGAIN LAUDED KING FOR "LUCIDITY AND BRILLIANT INTELLIGENCE." GUINEAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN REINFORCED BECAUSE OF MEETING AND HE WAS "VERY SATISFIED" WITH RESULTS OF VISIT TO MOROCCO. PRESS INDICATED KING HAD PLACED SPECIAL AIRCRAFT AT HIS DISPOSAL FOR DEPARTURE.

6. WHILE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS REFRAINED FROM SPECIFIC FOCUS ON GUINEAN MEDIATION EFFORT, OPPOSITION L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL) HEADLINED THIS ASPECT. PAPER ALSO EDITORIALIZED THAT GUINEAN MEDIATION WAS PRAISEWORTHY GESTURE OF FRIENDLY COUNTRY, WHICH MOROCCO, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, COULD NOT REJECT. EDITORIAL WENT ON, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, TO ASSERT THAT SAHARA ISSUE CLOSED. ALGERIAN FAILURES AND CURRENT ISOLATION HAD FORCED BOUMEDIENE TO TRY TO SAVE FACE, PAPER MAINTAINED.

7. DURING TOUR D'HORIZON MAY 7, FONMIN LARAKI TOLD ME GUINEAN HAD BEEN SENT BY ALGERIANS, WHO CURRENTLY PLAYING A "CHARM GAME." ALGERIANS HAD PREVIOUSLY SENT EMISSARIES FROM NIGER AND MALI ON SIMILAR MISSIONS, MAIN THRUST BEING TO ASK GOM TO HELP

BOUMEDIENE SAVE FACE. KING HASSAN, HE COMMENTED, ENTIRELY WILLING TO CONSULT WITH SAHARANS, BUT NOT UNDER THREAT FROM ALGERIAN BACKED POLISARIO.

8. IN DISCUSSION MAY 8, PRIMIN OSMAN CONFIRMED PRIVATELY LARAKI'S COMMENTS OF PREVIOUS DAY ON ALGERIAN INSPIRATION OF GUINEAN VISIT. MOROCCO WILLING TO TRY TO HELP BOUMEDIENE SAVE FACE, OSMAN SAID, BUT ALGERIAN LEADER HAD GONE VERY FAR OUT ON LIMB AND HAD TO CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE OR ELSE THERE WAS NOTHING MOROCCO COULD DO. ONCE ALGERIANS HAD SET UP SDAR, MOROCCO HAD HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BREAK RELATIONS. SOME OF THE TEN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD RECOGNIZED SDAR WERE NOW HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS AND MIGHT CHANGE THEIR POSITIONS -- PARTICULARLY MADAGASCAR AND TOGO. IN CASE OF TOGO, OSMAN ELABORATED, LIBYA AND GUINEA HAD ORIGINALLY PUT PRESSURE ON NJADEMA TO RECOGNIZE SDAR EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD NOT RECOGNIZED IT THEMSELVES.

9. COMMENT: SPECIAL MOROCCAN EFFORTS WITH GUINEA, LAUNCHED WITH VISIT THERE IN LATE MARCH BY MOROCCAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION MOHAMED BENHIMA, APPEAR TO HAVE BORNE FRUIT IN AVERTING GUINEAN RECOGNITION OF SDAR. GUINEAN INVOLVEMENT IN MEDIATION EFFORT PRESUMABLY ALSO AN INCENTIVE TO GUINEA NOT TO SIDE TOO OVERTLY IN DISPUTE. TO JUDGE FROM FONMIN'S AND PRIMIN'S REMARKS, GOM VIEWS GUINEAN EMISSARY EFFORTS MAINLY AS WELCOME SIGN OF ALGERIAN WEAKNESS RATHER THAN AS OPPORTUNITY TO COME FORWARD WITH NEW NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY. GUINEANS WILL FACE SAME DIFFICULTY AS SENEGALESE AND EARLIER MEDIATORS IN TRYING TO FIND SUBSTANTIVE BASIS FOR GETTING PARTIES TOGETHER TO NEGOTIATE, PARTICULARLY WITH MOROCCANS INSISTING THAT SAHARA SOVEREIGNTY WILL NOT BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT02600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-0393
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760562/aaaacblq.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ALGIERS 1172
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA VISITS MOROCCO ON MEDIATION EFFORT
TAGS: PFOR, MO, SS, SP, MR, AG, (BEAVOGUI, LANSANA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006